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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Specific problems and needs of island developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Following the request by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to Governments of States members of UNCTAD as well as international and intergovernmental organizations to provide information on measures they have undertaken in response to actions required by General Assembly resolution 45/202 of 21 December 1990, the UNCTAD secretariat received several replies, which are summarized below. A brief overview of UNCTAD recent work on behalf of the island developing countries is also reflected in the present summary.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

A. Australia

2. Australia maintains a strong commitment to assisting the countries of the South Pacific. In 1991-1992 the total grant aid programme to the region amounted to some $A 101 million. The objective of Australian development cooperation is to promote the equitable economic and social development of South Pacific island States, with particular attention to the needs of small island economies.

3. The special development problems of the Pacific island countries together with their differing prospects for sustainable economic development make it important for Australia to engage in ongoing exchanges with other donors in the region. With this in mind, Australia is continuing to encourage activities that improve development assistance consultations and coordination in the South Pacific.

4. Recognizing that South Pacific countries have special development needs, Australia adopts a flexible approach to the kinds of delivery mechanisms used, which include project aid, training and staffing assistance, as well as commodity assistance.

5. Australia will continue to support important regional organizations in the South Pacific. Cooperation through regional organizations is directed towards sectors that are best coordinated on a regional basis, as well as those focusing on regional economic and trade issues. Australian development cooperation with regional organizations embraces sectors like trade and economic planning, transport, health, energy, fisheries and the environment. This effectively complemen.s Australia's Government-to-Government assistance.

6. Activities that are relevant to more than one country, or which are more economically viable when organized on a larger scale, are supported on a multi-country basis. The Australian emphasis in multi-country activities has focused on the health sector.

B. Austria

7. Between 1989 and 1991, seven officials, from the Bahamas, Jamaica, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Saint Lucia, participated in the seminars for senior customs officials from developing countries that were organized by the Government of Austria for senior customs officials from developing countries.

C. Lithuania

8. The Government of Lithuania would be pleased to have the possibility to respond positively to the special needs of island developing countries in order to enable them to overcome their particular problems, but in its present transitional situation Lithuania can only afford to provide humanitarian aid in cases of emergency.

D. New Zealand

9. New Zealand's programme of official development assistance for 1991-1992 focuses primarily on its partner countries in the South Pacific and South-East Asia, but it also reaches much further, particularly through contributions to multilateral aid organizations.

10. In the South Pacific New Zealand has particular responsibilities in relation to the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, as well as a special relationship with Western Samoa. New Zealand has built up significant cooperation arrangements with Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and also has important programmes with smaller States, including Kiribati and Tuvalu. These bilateral programmes with the partner countries in its immediate neighbourhood are complemented by New Zealand's support for the major South Pacific regional institutions, and by the granting of education and training awards for students from all over the Pacific.

11. The other main focus of the New Zealand official development assistance programme is on the Association of South-East Asia Nations (ASEAN) group and in particular Indonesia and the Philippines, where New Zealand provides significant assistance in such areas as forestry and geothermal energy.

12. On the multilateral front, the main channels for New Zealand official development assistance are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, as well as major international financial institutions such as the International Development Association and the Asian Development Fund. New Zealand also contributes to a range of other multilateral relief agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

13. In 1991-1992 New Zealand's official development assistance allocation totalled $146.5 million, $124.4 million of which is bilateral assistance. The allocation to South Pacific countries and regional programmes amounted to $23 million.

E. Philippines

14. Two government bodies oversee the Philippine Technical Assistance Council (TAC) and the Inter-Agency Technical Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (IATC-TCDC). In 1991, TAC undertook three projects for island developing countries. These are: (a) a study tour for a delegation from the commodities export marketing authority of the Solomon Islands with the purpose of obtaining first-hand information on coconut-processing industries; (b) a South Pacific Commission evaluation mission, whose objective was to observe and get acquainted with the Philippines experience in coconut processing and marketing development; (c) a visit by a provincial cabinet of Papua New Guinea to Philippine programmes related to health, housing, vocational training, food processing, social development, culture, tourism and youth. Furthermore, the Philippines conducted a TCDC programming exercise for the food and agriculture sector in 1991 in which Western Samoa participated. During the forty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in 1992 the Philippines pledged $1,000 to the ESCAP Pacific Trust Fund, which benefits the Pacific island developing countries.

F. Switzerland

15. Assistance of Switzerland to developing countries is based exclusively on economic criteria. The Federal Law on Cooperation and Development and International Humanitarian Aid of 19 March 1976 envisages that Swiss assistance should support primarily the efforts of developing countries and the most disadvantaged population. It is against this background that the developing countries receive special tariff treatment within the framework of the Swiss preference scheme irrespective of their geographical, political and economic characteristics. The least developed countries, some of which are island developing countries, enjoy a more advantageous tariff treatment and Switzerland has introduced a STABEX system in their favour.

G. Thailand

16. In the period 1990-1991 Thailand offered technical assistance to island developing countries mainly in the form of fellowships. Fellowships were offered to Fiji, Maldives, Tonga, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands in areas such as agriculture, health, telecommunications and rural development.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. United Nations bodies and programmes

1. Department of Economic and Social Development

17. The Department of Economic and Social Development has been implementing a substantial programme of technical cooperation activities in the island developing countries. In 1991, expenditures of technical cooperation projects implemented by the Department in island developing countries amounted to more than $11 million. The technical cooperation projects implemented covered a wide range of Department of Economic and Social Development substantive fields, including areas such as energy, water, science and technology, population, statistics and transnational corporations and management.

18. In the energy sector the Department is preparing the final report of the project entitled "Preliminary exploration of geothermal resources in the eastern Caribbean Islands" and is planning to continue with the geothermal feasibility study in order to evaluate the main prospects that the islands have for electricity production. The project consists mainly of a reconnaissance study of the geothermal energy potential in Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the feasibility study for a submarine cable power transmission between eastern member States of the Caribbean Community. Another ongoing project in the energy sector concerns energy and petroleum management and development in Vanuatu.

19. The Department's Water Branch has supported activities in island countries, including water resource exploration, planning, development and management. In the sector of science and technology the Department in 1980 launched a project aimed at strengthening indigenous capacity in Cape Verde. In the sector of population the Department has proposed demographic estimates and projections by key population indicators biennially.

20. In the statistics sector, the Department's main activities included advisory services rendered to island developing countries. Furthermore, participants from Indonesia, Mauritius, the Philippines and Singapore participated in workshops and seminars on statistics. Technical cooperation projects in statistics were implemented in Cape Verde, the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Maldives, Malta, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Seychelles.

21. The Transnational Corporations and Management Division of the Department has agreed to execute a project jointly with ESCAP. The activities of the project cover Kiribat, Maldives, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The main areas of assistance include the development of a suitable institutional infrastructure for investment promotion, the training of officials involved in investment promotion and the establishment of an information system on foreign direct investment.

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

22. The ESCAP secretariat continues to give high priority to island developing countries. Considering the priority needs of the countries concerned a separate subprogramme on special measures in favour of island developing countries was instituted in 1988. Most of the activities under it have received generous funding support from the donor countries. The island least developed countries have also benefited from activities implemented under another ESCAP subprogramme on special measures in favour of least developed countries. The two subprogrammes were merged in 1991 into special measures for least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, to ensure better coordination and implementation of ESCAP assistance to these countries. The ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) in Port Vila has since its establishment in 1984 implemented a large number of technical assistance activities in various fields for the benefit of Pacific island countries. Furthermore, the establishment of the Pacific Trust Fund, set up with support from the donor countries, has facilitated increased participation of Pacific island countries at the annual Commission sessions since 1989.

3. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

23. The services of the regional advisors attached to the Commission are available to Bahrain on request, and this country is covered by the Commission's research support activities as a member country.

4. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

24. Since the convening of the meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries and organizations held in New York in June 1990, UNCTAD has continued its work programme, which included a comprehensive study carried out on Caribbean island developing countries, which, inter alia, analysed the socio-economic situation of the Caribbean island developing countries and assessed the various aspects of their vulnerability and the areas of comparative advantage in their development efforts. With respect to economic performance the study points out that although among the smaller States the growth of 4.5 per cent on average per annum during the eighties was fairly satisfactory, with the service sector contributing 70 per cent to GDP, agriculture was on the decline, largely because of unstable and low commodity prices. On the various aspects of vulnerability the study underlines the fact that geographic factors related to smallness and remoteness and economic aspects such as small market size, institutional weaknesses, openness of the economies, limited capacity to exploit marine resources, a high level of migration and undeveloped inter-island transport services are some of the intrinsic difficulties that compound the already very weak economic structures of the small and remote island developing countries. With regard to the comparative advantage of such countries, the study points out that the Caribbean island developing countries continue to benefit from such positive factors as physiographic endowment that have enhanced tourism, socio-political

stability and the availability of economic opportunities particularly with respect to trade services and communications.

25. Another important pilot study carried out was related to the construction of an index for ranking countries according to their economic vulnerability. The study describes the methodology for constructing such an index and makes an attempt to compute it. The implications of the index are that island developing countries, especially the small ones, are characterized by a high degree of vulnerability with regard to forces outside their control. It has been shown that in many instances island developing countries have a relatively high GDP per capita, conveying the impression of a strong economy, even when, in reality, their economies are fragile in terms of economic exposure, remoteness or proneness to natural disasters. In other instances, island developing countries are very poor and very vulnerable at the same time. The study was reviewed by a group of experts on island developing countries that met at Geneva on 14 and 15 July 1992 and it was recommended that further work be done in this area based on a classification of different groups of island developing countries with differing characteristics. This would provide a more useful operational guideline for policies of the donor community. The above two studies, which were presented to the meeting of the group of experts referred to above, will be distributed to Governments of island developing countries and other relevant institutions.

26. The UNCTAD secretariat also took a further initiative following the meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries and donor countries and organizations in June 1990, which involved the development of a project document outlining a range of technical assistance advisory services on behalf of island developing countries. The project document has been submitted to UNDP for consideration. Several island developing countries also benefit from a number of ongoing UNCTAD technical assistance projects, such as the pilot project to support commodity-dependent countries, and the one on an inter-island maritime information system. The latter project is an integrated computer-based information system for analysing shipping movements in island developing countries. The system consists of a database system, a set of data collection questionnaires and various reporting capabilities.

27. The system is particularly useful for maritime transportation planners in shipping companies, port authorities and government ministries concerned with infrastructure/transportation. For example, it was applied in Maldives to gather information about all current trade routes between Male and all outer islands, including details on each route, travel times, fuel consumption and so on; frequency of service to and from each outer island, including details of all on each route, travel times, fuel consumption and so on, and also including analysis of time spent "in port" (at the island) at both the Male end and the out-island end of a voyage leg; specifics on all cargo carried to and from Male and on passenger statistics.

28. UNCTAD work on least developed countries, which involves, inter alia, a regular review of the economic situation of least developed countries and international support measures in their favour, gives particular attention to

the particular development problems of the least developed island developing countries. These relate to factors such as remoteness, transport constraints, proneness to disasters and limited internal markets. These analyses are part of the overall effort of UNCTAD to mobilize further the donor community to pay special attention to the particular needs of island developing countries in their development programmes. The UNCTAD secretariat has also participated actively in the round-table meetings organized by UNDP for several of the island developing countries that are also least developed.

B. United Nations specialized and related agencies

1. International Labour Organisation

29. ILO assistance to the island countries is provided on the basis of their specific needs and is implemented within the framework of UNDP country and intercountry programmes. It also provides assistance to these countries under its own regular budget for technical cooperation. In the area of development of management capacity and creation of employment through small-scale enterprises, ILO is implementing a number of technical assistance projects in the Comoros, Madagascar, Fiji, Grenada and Maldives.

30. In the area of human resource development, ILO has prepared a draft guideline entitled "Integrated Human Resources Planning and Management" as a contribution to the project of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat on macroeconomic planning and management in small island developing countries designed to promote the training of the officials responsible for human resource planning. Furthermore, seven island developing countries have been receiving assistance under a project entitled "Employment Promotion, Manpower Planning and Labour Administration in the Pacific".

31. Other ILO-supported projects include assistance to the Government of Papua New Guinea in strengthening its capacity in the fields of employment and manpower planning and in labour market analysis; assistance to the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia in collecting and analysing data on manpower supply and demand and in developing a labour market information system; assistance to the Marshall Islands in drafting a chapter on human resources for the country's second development plan (1991-1995); assistance to Madagascar in retrenching the public sector promotion of women's training programmes; strengthening the training management and organizational capacity of the National Institute of Training Promotion; assistance to Mauritius in the preparation of the vocational education and training master plan for the year 2000; and assistance to Seychelles in formulating its human resource development plan.

2. International Telecommunication Union

32. ITU has provided technical assistance to several island developing countries. This includes (a) assistance to Comoros in the installation and commissioning of four containerized crossbar exchange and associated systems; (b) assistance to Sao Tome and Principe in the preparation of a master plan for telecommunications development, installation of a radio-relay link between two islands in the archipelago and preparation of a national plan for the improvement of maintenance of telecommunication facilities; (c) assistance to Cape Verde in the preparation of a master plan for telecommunications development and training of staff; (d) assistance to Madagascar in the preparation of a national plan for the improvement of maintenance and a master plan for telecommunications development, and establishment of a national telecommunications laboratory; and (e) assistance in different aspects of telecommunications and introduction of new services and technologies to Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Netherlands Antilles (Curaçao and Aruba).

33. ITU assistance to island developing countries in the South Pacific during 1990 and 1991 was provided through the regional project on telecommunications training. The project provided support to the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. The project concentrated on training courses provided in various fields of telecommunications.

3. International Maritime Organization

34. The technical cooperation activities of IMO give priority to assisting developing countries, including island developing countries and territories, in the enhancement of human and technical resources necessary for effective maritime administration and operation in accordance with global standards for maritime safety, marine pollution prevention and related aspects of shipping and ports.

35. In the field of maritime education and technology, efforts are under way to link maritime training institutes of island developing countries to a world-wide maritime training system, including the World Maritime University and other establishments in developing countries, in order to exchange information on maritime education and training, and promote mutual assistance in teacher and officer training as well as on-the-job training.

4. International Fund for Agricultural Development

36. Since most of the member island developing countries of IFAD are included in the poorest food deficit countries that are main targets of the Fund's activities, the Fund has paid a great deal of attention to the development of the island developing countries. As at December 1991, 58 loans amounting to SDR 352.5 million have been extended to island developing countries.

Fifty-nine per cent of these loans were provided on highly concessional terms, 39 per cent on intermediate terms and 2 per cent on ordinary terms. These loans to island developing countries amounted to about 13 per cent of a total of SDR 2,755.1 million for 321 loans extended by IFAD for 313 projects to some 94 member countries between 1978 to 1991.

5. International Monetary Fund

37. The Fund's policy is to extend uniform treatment to all members while seeking to meet their particular needs and circumstances. Within this overall policy, the Fund has sought to meet the needs of island developing countries in a number of ways. Quotas of island developing countries reflect their particular situation as in many instances they are producers of primary exports that are subject to price and volume fluctuations. As at the end of March 1992, the outstanding use of Fund resources under all facilities by island developing countries totalled SDR 1.9 billion (or about $2.6 billion).

38. Eighteen island developing countries are eligible for assistance under the structural adjustment facility. During the six-year period until the end of March 1992, three-year arrangements under this facility were approved for six island developing countries. The total amount committed was SDR 242 million, of which SDR 183 million has been disbursed. Until the end of March 1992, arrangements under the enhanced structural adjustment facility have been approved for two island developing countries for a total commitment of SDR 413 million, of which SDR 107 million has been disbursed.

39. Fourteen island developing countries have also made use of Fund resources under stand-by arrangements and three made use of the extended Fund facility during the 10-year period from March 1982 to March 1992. The total committed under the two facilities during this period was SDR 3.9 billion, of which SDR 2.2 billion was disbursed. As at 31 March 1992, five island developing countries had stand-by arrangements in place.

40. During the period from 1 January 1982 to 31 March 1992, 13 island developing countries made 28 purchases under the compensatory and contingency financing facility amounting to a total of SDR 2.2 billion. As at 31 March 1992, 10 of these countries had purchases outstanding under the facility, amounting to a total of SDR 648 million. The island developing countries also benefit from the Fund's programme of technical assistance, its efforts in arranging debt-rescheduling programmes and its initiatives to support social and environment and private sector development programmes.

6. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

41. In 1989 and 1990, the total net official development assistance flows to island developing countries and territories by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member countries, Spain and Portugal, and multilateral agencies, totalled $7,977.67 million and $8,940.92 million respectively. In

1989 bilateral flows amounted to $6,918.18 million and multilateral to $1,059.49 million. The corresponding flows for 1990 were $7,630.60 million and $1,310.16 million respectively.

7. World Bank

42. Bank assistance is tailored to individual country needs, by taking into account the special geographical and other circumstances. In fiscal years 1990 and 1991, the Bank committed $6.7 billion to supporting economic and social programmes in individual island developing countries.

43. In Jamaica Bank operations supported the Government's trade reform measures as well as financial sector reforms. The Bank is also supporting agricultural reforms and a five-year investment programme to upgrade the country's road infrastructure. In Saint Kitts and Nevis, the International Development Association (IDA), together with bilateral donors, is reforming the agricultural lease system. In Trinidad and Tobago technical assistance is being provided to strengthen the institutional capacity of the economy for undertaking structural reforms and lending is being made to support the creation of employment opportunities. In the Comoros, IDA financing, in collaboration with UNDP and bilateral donors, is provided for road maintenance. In Sao Tome and Principe the Bank has, together with the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), supported a structural adjustment programme to facilitate private economic activity and generate employment opportunities for households. In Mauritius the Bank supported institutional arrangements to reverse the environmental degradation. In Vanuatu an investment credit in low-cost housing has been approved. In the Maldives work on a fisheries project and tourism development is continuing with the support of the Bank. In addition the Bank produced its first regional economic report for the Pacific island countries in fiscal year 1991. Furthermore, the Bank completed a study on the incentives framework for private sector investment in Fiji.

8. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

44. The non-governmental organization International Scientific Council for Island Development (INSULA), set up recently under the auspices of UNESCO's intergovernmental programme, has begun its activities aimed at promoting horizontal exchange of experience among island countries in order to promote sustainable development. Under its regular programme for 1990-1991, UNESCO organized a regional training course in the Philippines in April 1991 on the management of island natural resources, in cooperation with the Philippines authorities and other regional bodies. Furthermore, it has established a small unit with a view to developing a special approach in its relations with small member States. Twenty-one of the 22 micro-States identified for inclusion in this programme are islands or archipelagos. UNESCO is also coordinating a plan of action with respect to the two subregions where most

small States are located, the Caribbean and the South Pacific. This plan will take into account their isolation from metropolitan centres of the world, difficulties of communication, the fragility of their ecosystems and vulnerability to natural disasters, as well as other circumstances particular to them. Furthermore, UNESCO in conjunction with the Seychelles authorities and UNDP, plans to execute a project that would provide environment training for officials of the relevant government agencies in that country.

9. International Civil Aviation Organization

45. Within its technical cooperation programme, ICAO continues to pay particular attention to civil aviation development in island developing countries and is now in the process of planning activities for the next UNDP cycle, which will include consideration of the needs of island developing countries. In Africa assistance was provided to Sao Tome and Principe for the set-up of an airport authority and the development of airworthiness procedures, to Cape Verde for runway repairs and maintenance, to Mauritius for the quality control of the national airline, to Seychelles for civil aviation training, to the Comoros for training and to Madagascar also for training programmes.

46. Technical cooperation activities in Asia and Pacific have covered Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Sri Lanka and Tonga. The assistance covered areas such as airline management, civil aviation management and operations, airport development and provision of aviation equipment. In addition ICAO/UNDP subregional assistance was extended to the South Pacific through the provision of expert advice and support for training programmes in various disciplines. In the Caribbean, ICAO technical assistance is provided to several Caribbean island developing States mainly under UNDP-funded country projects. In some cases, assistance has also been provided through the Civil Aviation Purchasing Service's arrangements financed directly by the Government.

47. In the last 10 years, ICAO executed some 26 specific technical assistance country projects in the areas of training of personnel in several fields of civil aviation, as well as advisory services in different fields. The countries and territories that benefited from the assistance include Antigua, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

10. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

48. Recognizing the particular needs of the island developing countries and the disadvantages they face in their development efforts, specific actions have been undertaken in their favour by UNIDO within the framework of its overall programme of assistance to the least developed countries and its

several special programmes. These include the industrial action programme for the least developed countries, the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the special programme for industrial development for Asia and the Pacific, the regional cooperation programme for the industrial recovery of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the integration of women in industrial development.

49. A number of island developing countries have also benefited from UNIDO's ECDC/TCDC programmes. The Solidarity Meeting for Cooperation in the Industrial Development of Cape Verde resulted in the identification and preparation of some 30 project profiles and follow-up activities are continuing. As part of the UNIDO/Islamic Chamber of Commerce programme of cooperation, two Islamic island developing countries, the Comoros and Maldives, took part in the meeting for the promotion of industrial development in less developed Islamic countries where they presented several projects for cooperation with more developed Islamic countries and financial institutions. Furthermore, UNIDO concluded negotiations with the Government of Mexico and a number of Caribbean States to develop a programme of cooperation between the countries concerned.

11. World Food Programme

50. WFP has 41 ongoing development projects in 19 island developing countries, with the corresponding commitments amounting to $281 million. The Programme's development assistance covers sectors such as human resource development, land settlement, food security, dairy development, agricultural and rural development, environmental protection and rural infrastructure development. Furthermore, WFP is also providing humanitarian and relief aid to island developing countries. Currently about 9 per cent of WFP's total development project portfolio is located in island developing countries. In 1991, the Programme provided grant assistance to this category of projects totalling almost $33 million. WFP expenditure on operational activities in island developing countries having a population of less than 1 million is estimated to have been $5.19 per capita in 1991, compared to the Programme's overall average of $0.14 per capita. In 1992, WFP expects to commit over $22 million to support new development projects in island developing countries, especially in the field of human resource development.

12. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

51. FAO does not have special technical assistance for island developing countries but special attention is given to them within the overall programmes for developing countries. In addition to country projects developed in response to the specific needs of the island developing countries of Asia and the Pacific region to enhance food availability, FAO has launched regional development projects in the fisheries, forestry and livestock sectors, as well as for the development of agricultural crops. Several regional projects - some of them financed through trust funds from the Government of Japan - have been conceived and are being executed by FAO to assist in developing

agriculture and coastal fishery management systems. In this connection, FAO is currently implementing a regional technical cooperation project on development of fruit fly control strategies in the South Pacific.

52. At the technical assistance level, in late 1990 FAO fielded an agricultural sector review and programming mission to Fiji, Western Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, the Cook Islands, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, at their request. FAO also has technical cooperation projects in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa designed to assist them in strengthening their technical capability in policy analysis and planning in agriculture and related areas.

53. FAO activities in the island developing countries in the Caribbean region are being carried out in close collaboration with the countries concerned and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as well as with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The main areas of FAO technical assistance to these countries are related to fisheries, agricultural development, prevention of food losses, marketing and post-harvest support to small farmers, integration of women in rural development, survey and control of diseases, desert locust control, forestry water legislation and administration, strengthening of agricultural research, establishment of agricultural technology information systems, and legal aspects of a common policy on access to exclusive economic zones. Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Madagascar, Cape Verde, Jamaica and the Comoros have particularly benefited from projects related to agricultural policy analysis and planning and human resource development.

54. Furthermore, between 1988 and 1991, FAO food control activities in the island developing countries consisted of a number of surveys, missions, workshops and training activities in the Pacific and Caribbean regions. In addition, long-term projects have been completed within the past 10 years to develop food control programmes in Seychelles, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Mauritius.

55. The FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture has continued to monitor crop conditions, production prospects and food needs, including emergency food needs in many island developing countries. Furthermore, several island developing countries are active members of intergovernmental commodity groups that undertake activities of specific interest to individual island developing countries. In this connection, in April 1992, FAO organized an Interregional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries in Barbados.

13. Universal Postal Union

56. UPU funded a number of consultancy missions to Madagascar, Maldives, Tonga and Vanuatu within the framework of its interregional programme. Furthermore, technical assistance in the form of country consultancy missions and training scholarships financed by UPU was provided to the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, the Bahamas, Barbados, Aruba, the Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Cyprus. The following countries in Asia and the Pacific benefited from four technical assistance regional projects financed by UPU: Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Maldives, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Western Samoa, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

14. World Health Organization

57. Specific measures are taken on behalf of a naumber of island developing countries, such as the Maldives and Cape Verde, but these are in connection with their particular health needs as least developed countries.

C. Information received from intergovernmental organizations

1. Asian Development Bank

58. The Bank gives special attention to the needs of its smaller member States. The Bank established a South Pacific Regional Office in 1989, which has become the focal point for all the Bank's activities in the South Pacific. It is now responsible for undertaking country strategy studies, initiating and implementing some of the technical assistance programmes and processing and implementing several loan projects.

59. With effect from 1992 the Bank will prepare biannual Pacific island economic reports on each Pacific island developing country. These will provide inputs to government policy positions and help donors in their assessment of their aid programmes. They will also be useful to the World Bank's biennial regional economic reports and provide inputs to the analysis and documents presented at round-table meetings with UNDP.

2. Caribbean Community Secretariat

60. The Caribbean Community has, over the past three years, been re-examining its development thrust. A major input in this process was the study entitled "CARICOM to the Year 2000", a major outcome of which was the convening of a regional economic conference in 1991. Parallel to that exercise were the activities of the West Indian Commission, established by the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in 1989 to make recommendations

to the Conference of Heads of Government on the overall developmental path of the Community.

61. Other initiatives of the Community include the development of a regional strategy for technical and vocational education and training, the study of the region's geothermal resources, the implementation of an oceanographic resource exploration project, the negotiation of an agreement on the management and conservation of the environment, the holding in 1990 of a conference on issues of sustainable development in the Caribbean, the identification of transportation projects to be funded under Lomé IV and the negotiation of regional cooperation agreements in areas such as disaster prevention (the CARICOM Disaster Emergency Response Mechanism) and the regional security system.

3. Commonwealth Secretariat

62. The Commonwealth Secretariat has undertaken several activities from which several island developing countries have benefited. These include the organization of a symposium on the impact of major global changes on small States that was held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in 1991; technical support during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations; technical assistance in the development of capital markets; support of on-the-job programmes; and assistance in promoting science and technology programmes.

4. Organization of American States

63. During the period 1990-1991 the Organization supported a number of projects from which several Caribbean island countries benefit. They covered such areas as tourism, natural resources, employment, export promotion, education, public sector management, health, planning, agro-forestry, capital formation, standardization and agricultural diversification.

5. South Pacific Commission

64. The Commission is mandated to provide technical assistance to its 22 member countries and has been active over the past 44 years in such areas as agriculture, fisheries, health, nutrition, women and youth development, demography, rural development and training.